

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 10-13, 17-21, 23-24, and 37-44 are presently active; Claims 2-9, 14-16, 22, and 25-36 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 10, 12, 17, 19, and 20 have been presently amended. Claims 37-44 have been added. No new matter has been added as detailed below.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 4, and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bacchi et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,765,444) in view of Ogawa et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,293,746). Claims 17-21 and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bacchi et al in view of Ogawa et al in view of Jevtic (U.S. Patent No. 6,201,999).

Support for amendment:

Claims 1 and 17 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of the previously presented Claim 4. Further, Claims 10, 12, 19 and 20 have been amended to clarify the subject matter defined therein without adding any new matter. The amended parts of Claims 10, 12, 19 and 20 are supported by page 32, lines 15-20. Still further, Claims 37-44 have been newly added. The newly added Claims 37-44 are supported by page 26, lines 6-14, page 33, lines 7-14, and page 36, lines 13-15. Moreover, Claims 4, 5, 7, 9, and 25-36 have been canceled. Accordingly, the present amendments do not add new matter.

Claim summary:

By way of review, Claim 1 is directed to a transfer mechanism for transferring substrates to be processed with respect to a processing apparatus in a semiconductor processing system. The transfer mechanism includes a transfer base, a support for supporting

the transfer base, and a first and a second support arm disposed on the transfer base. A first and a second driving motor respectively slide the first and the second support arm and a third driving motor revolves the transfer base. The first to the third motors are disposed at an outside of the transfer base. **In particular, an axis for revolving the transfer base with respect to the support has a three-axis coaxial structure for transferring driving forces of the first to the third driving motors.** That is, each axis for transferring driving forces of the first to the third driving motors shares a single common axis. See, for example, Fig. 13 of Applicant's specification.

Claim 17 includes the above-noted features of Claim 1.

Regarding the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

The outstanding Office Action asserts on page 2 that Bacchi et al teach "a multiple-axis coaxial structure: Torso axis (13); Shoulder axis (16R); Elbow axis (24R); and Wrist axis (32R)." However, in Bacchi et al, the shoulder axis 16R pivots in a circular motion with respect to the torso axis 13 by torso motor 92 while the elbow axis 24R pivots, by second motor 52, in a circular motion with respect to the shoulder axis 16R, not the torso axis 13. See col.5, lines 38-40 of Bacchi et al. See also Fig. 1B of Bacchi et al reproduced below with annotations. Accordingly, the torso axis 13, the shoulder axis 16R, and the elbow axis 24R are not three axes which form a three-axis coaxial structure. Further, the wrist axis 32R does not pivot in a circular motion with respect to the shoulder axis 16R. See col.6, lines 2-9 of Bacchi et al. Accordingly, neither can the shoulder axis 16R, the elbow axis 24R, and the wrist axis 32R be three axes which form a three-axis coaxial structure.

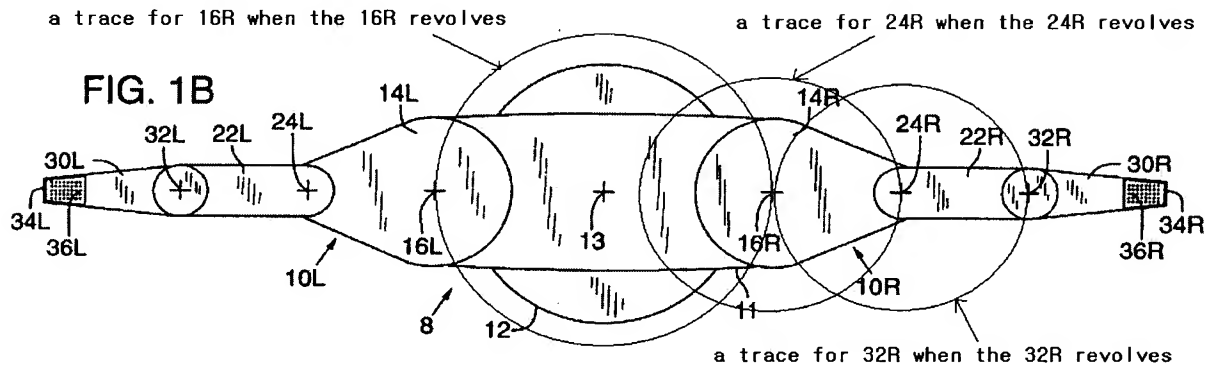


Fig. 1B of Bacchi et al

Accordingly, Bacchi et al do not teach, suggest, or even imply the following element of Claim 1:

...an axis for revolving the transfer base with respect to the support has a three-axis coaxial structure for transferring driving forces of the first to the third driving motors.

Moreover, the first motor of Bacchi et al is disposed in transfer base 11. See Figs. 1C and 2 of Bacchi et al.

Neither one Ogawa et al nor Jevtic alleviates these deficiencies of Bacchi et al.

Accordingly, the art references including Bacchi et al, Ogawa et al, and Jevtic do not show, individually or in combination, the inventive features set forth in the amended Claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the amended Claim 1 (when considered as a whole) patentably defines over the art of record, and therefore is allowable.

Dependent Claims 10 and 12, in addition to the inventive features recited in Claim 1, define that a first support surface of the first support arm and a second support surface of the second support arm slide along substantially circular arcs (Claim 10) or slide along directions converging toward each other when projected from the transfer base (Claim 12), and the first and the second support surface occupy a same position without having the transfer base revolved or translated when being in a state projected from the transfer base.

Claims 19 and 20 also include the above elements of Claims 10 and 12, respectively.

However, Bacchi et al are totally silent on the above inventive features of Claims 10 and 12. See, Figs. 10 and 11 of Bacchi et al.

Neither one Ogawa et al nor Jevtic alleviates these deficiencies of Bacchi et al.

Accordingly, the art references including Bacchi et al, Ogawa et al, and Jevtic do not show, individually or in combination, the inventive features as set forth in the amended Claims 10, 12, 19, and 20. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the amended Claims 10, 12, 19, and 20 (when considered as a whole) patentably define over the art of record, and are therefore allowable.

It is also believed that Claims 11, 13, 18, 21, 23, and 24 depending on independent Claim 1 or 17 are allowable for the same reasons indicated with respect to Claim 1 or 17 and further because of the additional features recited therein which, when taken alone and/or in combination with the features recited in Claim 1 or 17, remove the inventions defined therein further from the disclosures made in the art of record.

Regarding Newly Added Claims:

Claims 37-44 have been newly added without adding any new matter.

It is believed that Bacchi et al, Ogawa et al, and Jevtic are totally silent on the feature recited in the newly added Claims 37-44. Thus, Claims 37-44 are also patentable over the art of record.

Conclusion: in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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